PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HANSON	Examiner:	Chase, S.
Serial No.:	09/905,464	Group Art Unit:	2133
Filed:	July 13, 2001	Docket:	ROC920000217US1
Title:	FORMATTING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A DIRECT ACCESS STORAGE DEVICE		

OFFICE ACTION RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JUN 2 4 2004

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated March 11, 2004, please reconsider the application in view of the following amendments and remarks. This response is being filed within the shortened statutory period for reply, in view of the three month due date of June 11, 2004 being designated a Federal Day of Mourning. A such, no extension of time fees are due. The amendments to the claims are presented in accordance with the "revised format" of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

Authorization is herewith given to charge **Deposit Account No. 50-0996** (IBMR.051US01) **$194.00** for 6 additional claims over 20, and 1 additional independent claim over 20; with further authorization to charge/credit all requisite fees/overages to said Deposit Account, as incurred by this responsive filing.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

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has amended claim 1 to incorporate features of allowable claim 6. Claim 6 has been amended to recite an additional aspect of the invention. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to change dependency of these claims in view of the amendments to base claim 1.

Allowed claims 11 and 22 have been amended to indicate that the last data block can, but need not, store a number of data bytes fewer than that accommodated by the block size of the last data block. This voluntary amendment has a broadening, rather than narrowing, effect. Claims 30 and 31 have been amended to correct dependency of these claims. New claims 33-38 are believed to be directed to allowable subject matter.
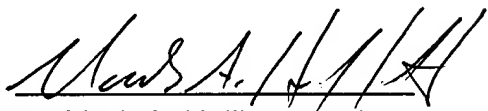
Concerning the rejection of claim 10, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that the phrase "non-provision of error detection" is unclear. One skilled in the art, particularly in view of Applicant's specification, would readily understand that claim 10 is directed to encoding the last data block without provision of error detection coverage for the last data block. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10.

It is believed that pending claims 1-32 and new claims 33-38 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

Please direct all correspondence to:

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By: _____
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